QUESTION OF AID GIVEN BY FRANCE

A View of the Part Taken By It In the American Revolution

WHETHER the American colonies would have succeeded in winning their independence from Great Britain if they had not received aid from France is, as Mr. Perkins says, an interesting and not a simple question. Mr. Perkins does not attempt a categorical answer to this question; but he presents the story of France's part in the American Revolution in such a clear manner that the reader is enabled to form his own answer. It is practicaly certain, as far as anything so specualtive can be certain, that without the aid of France, the independence of the United States would no thave been won by George Washington. And yet this statement detracts nothing from the greatness of Washington. Even he, though the greatest of men, could not have maintained his army through all the seven years of weary waiting without money, and it was France who furnished the money. Nor could he have entrapped Cornwallis at Yorktown without the aid of a fleet, and it was France who furnished the fleet. On the other hand it is as clear as the noon-day sun that even with the money and fleets of France the Revolution must have failed had the cause of the Colonists been in any other hands than those of Washington.

But what motives could have induced an ancient monarchy, and one of the most illiberal in Europe, to aid rebellious colonies in throwing off a monarchial government to establish a republic? Obviously the controlling motive with the French government itself, was revenge for recent injuries and defeats at the hands of England and desire to reduce the dominant power of its ancient rival. A secondary consideration was a desire to share in American trade, heretofore monopolized by England. But neither of the motives, though sufficiently strong to induce the government to wink at secret aid sent to the Americans by French subjects, would have been strong enough to induce France to recognize the independence of the Colonies and form an alliance with them Back of this action was the enthusiasm which the American cause aroused among the people of France. The works of Montesquieu, Rousseau, the Encyclopaedists, and other writers had prepared the French mind to welcome the political theories of the Declaration of Independence, and though, perhaps, few Frenchmen would have liked to see those theories put into pratcice in France, all were enthusiastic over them when applied in a distant country. So when the French ministry signed the treaty with the American Commissioners, they gave expression to the public sentiment of France, little dreaming of the influence which that action was destined, within their own day, to have on the fortunes of their King and country. For, as Mr. Perkins well says:

"The influence of the American alliance upon France was of a character that no one had anticipated. The power of England was not broken. France gained no monopoly of the trade with America and not even any important part in it; if the irritation caused by the disasters of the Seven Years' War was somewhat allayed by England's defeat, yet the position of France on the Continent was not materially strengthened by the American Revolution. The important effect was on the French peopel themselves: the success of the American Colonists in establishing a free government had a great influence upon the French mind during the years before their own Revolution."

Mr. Perkins knows how to tell a story, and in this volume he has told a most interesting story in a most interesting way. Interspersed at various intervals are character sketches of LaFayette, Vergennes, de Grasse, Rochambeau and other French leaders who played important parts in the winning of American independence,—all done exceedingly well. The clear, simple style in which the author tells his story carries the reader along unwearied from beginning to end. The volume is a most valuable contribution to the literature of the American Revolution.

R. D. W. C.

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BENJAMIN H. HILL AND HIS LOYALTY

(Continued from Page Six.)

moving the political disabilities from every person in the United States that were imposed by the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution. Mr. Randall brought his bill to a vote on the 10th of January, 1876. Mr. Blaine moved to amend by excepting Jefferson Davis from the benefits of the bill. Blaine made a speech in support of his amendment, in which he gives the following reasons for his amendment, that "Mr. Davis was the author, knowingly, deliberately, guiltily and willfully of the gigantic murder and crime of Andersonville," and he further says: "And I here before God, measuring my words, knowing the full extent and meaning, declare that neither the deeds of the Duke of Alva in the low countries, nor the massacre of St. Bartholemew, nor the thumbscrews and engines of torture of the Spanish Inquisition, begin to compare in atrocity with the hideous crimes of Andersonville." This is the gravest and severest indictment that ever was brought against a public man, and if it were true would consign Mr. Davis to the lowest depths of eternal infamy. In the 16th century the people of the Netherlands were fully imbued with the spirit of the reformation of the Christian religion. At that time she was a province of Spain and the Emperor Charles V and his son, PhilipII, undertook to punish them for their heresy. So the Spanish government dispatched the Duke of Alva to the Netherlands who introduced the horrors of the Inquisition among the people as a means of suppressing the revolt against Spain. Alva was one of the most despicable characters and unmitigated scoundrels in all history. No tyrant ever imposed upon a brave people more iron-hearted cruelty and a more ruthless, unrelenting despotism. He boasted that in his work of hell that he had executed thirty-five thousand of the poor, helpless people of the Netherlands. It was horrible to compare the Confederate President to this cruel monster, and modern Molach this cruel monster, and modern Moloch enough to arouse the indignation of Hill and fire his heart and nerve him for the contest. Captain Wirt was the commandat at Andersonville. He was put on trial for the atrocities at the prison; was condemned to be executed. He was assured on the night before his execution by a cabinet officer that if he would implicate Mr. Davis his sentence would be commutted. His reply was: "I had no connection with Mr. Davis as to what was done at Andersonville. I would not become a traitor against him or anybody else even to save my life." Mr. Hill then says to Blaine: "Sir, what Wirt, within two hours of his execution, would not say for his life, the gentleman from Maine says to the country to keep himself and his party in power. Christianity is a falsehood, humanity is a lie, civilization is a cheat, or the man who would not make a false charge for his life was never guilty of willful murder." This was a terrible rebuke to Blaine and he must have winced from the thrust of the keen Damascus blade as it pierced his vitals. Hill's victory was complete and never was a man more utterly routed and crushed in a debate than Blaine was. Hill's speech is well worth reading. It is one of the few great speeches in history. It is significant that Mr. Blaine's biographer (whose book I have before me) makes no mention of Hill's speech in reply to Blaine, when he speaks of the amendment offered by him to Mr. Randall's amnesty bill. It is a silent confession that Blaine was worsted in the debate. Prior to his making this speech against Mr. Davis he was justly classed among conservative Republicans, for he had defeated the force bill which was aimed to keep the southern whites in subjection. This incident had made him popular with our people, and they were unprepared for his fiery assault upon their beloved chieftain. Eight years after Blaine made his speech he published his book. "Twenty years in Congress," the production of a powerful intellect, in which he speaks of Mr. Davis, as follows: "For several years he had been growing in favor with a powerful element in the Democracy of the free States and but for the exasperating quarrel of 1860 he might have been selected as the Presidential candidate of his party. No man gave up more than Mr. Davis in joining the revolt against the Union. In his farewell address to the Senate there is a tone of moderation and dignity not unmixed with regretful and tender emotions. There was also a spirit of defiance and confidence. He evidently had full faith that he was going forth to victory and power." To sum up the points Mr. Hill makes in his speech on the treatment of prisoners and I conclude this part of the discussion. Hill showed that the Federal government made medicine and clothing contrabands of war, two articles that were scarce in the South and to add to the scarcity of clothing they burned up the factories of the south where they could find them. The Confederates, in order to mitigate the suffering of prisoners, proposed that each side should send as many surgeons and nurses as they pleased, to furnish supplies of clothing and food and medicine and everything else needed for the comfort of prisoners and further proposed to send the sick and wounded Federal prisoners home without an equivalent in exchange. All of these propositions in the cause of humanity were rejected. For these acts of humanity the Richmond Examiner, during the war said: "The chivalry and humanity of Jefferson Davis will inevitably ruin the Confederacy. Mr. Davis in his dealings with the enemy was as gentle as a sucking dove." Yet Mr. Blaine denounced him as a murderer. Mr. Hill proved that 12 per cent of the Confederates in Federal prisons died while only 9 per cent of the Federal prisoners in Confederate hands died. When Hill concluded his speech Voorhees, of Indiana, said: "It s as sublime as the inspired words that fell from the lips of Paul on Mars Hill."

Hill's speech produced a new order of things in the South, it placed her upon her feet and restored her to her former prestige as a leader. He said to Blaine: "I tell you that this reckless misrepresentation of the South must stop right here. I put you on notice that hereafter when you make any assertion against her you must be prepared to substantiate it with proof.' These were grand words,.

Mr. Hill took his seat in the Senate on the 4th of March, 1817. At that time Sherman, Lamar, Blaine, Conkling and Carpenter were there. This was a bright galaxy of great men and he was the peer of either of them. I shall not allude to but one more of Mr. Hill's speeches and this one was delivered in the Senate on May 10th, 1879, in reply to Blaine, Edmunds and Chandler. It is an able exposition of our dual system of government as he understood it. He did not take the view of Mr. Calhoun that it was Federal and not national, but he said it was partly Federal and partly national. This is considered his greatest speech and covers forty large pages in his life by his son. Senator Vest pronounced it the greatest speech delivered in the Senate within a quarter of a century. It will rank with the great speeches made by Webster and Calhoun in 1833, when they discussed the theory of our government, and when Calhoun's logic convinced Webster and he afterwards adopted Calhoun's conclusions. A correspondent of the Rochester Evening Express says of the speech: "He was bold in his statements, well arranged with his books of reference before him, bold in gesture and voice, sometimes with one hand opened toward the other side of the Senate, sometimes with both extended, and then striking the attitude in which Henry Clay is pictured in making his farewell to the Senate. With head and shoulders thrown back, his feet well advanced, and both hands reaching out and down ward in eloquence and dignity. I have seen Clay, but never heard him speak only in conversation, but I have heard Tom Marshal who is said to have been much like Clay in style and eloquence, Hill has studied them both and equals if he does not excel them both. Another northern writer said: "I have heard may speeches and must say that this of the great rebel for clear statement, fine language, strong declamation, well sustained argument and for research and candor, is the best I ever heard in the Senate on the hustings or on the platform." What more could be said of any man. This is well deserved praise coming from political enemies, so soon after the war, before the passions and hatred of the people had cooled as they have now by the lapse of a half century. What a noble virtue is true friendship.

"Who shall compare love's mean and
gross desire
To the chaste zeal of friendship's sacred fire.
Love is a sudden blaze, which soon decays;
Friendship is like the sun's eternal
rays.
Not daily benefits exhaust the flame,
It still is giving and still burns the
same."

Everybody is familiar with the friendship of Damon and Pythias and Jonathan and David. But none of these were more devoted to each other than was Mr. Hill to Davis. We read in Grecian mythology that Achilles was the most illustrious of the Grecian heroes. He had a quarrel with Agamenon, the commander of the Grecian forces, and he withdrew his forces from the contest and retired to his tent and neither prayers and entreaties couched in the most flattering and tempting terms could induce him to return to the field, and he openly avowed his intention of returning home to Greece. Homer says:

"The great Achilles, swift of foot, remained
Within his ships, indignant for the
sake
Of the fair-haired Boriseis."

After the withdrawal of Achilles, disaster befell the Grecian army. Patroclus, the devoted friend of Achilles, reared in the same home with him in his boyhood days, impatient at the success of the Trojans, obtained permission from his friends to lead the Thessalians to the conflict. Achilles equipped him in his own armor, except giving him the spear, which no one but the hero could wield and which he had received from his father, Peleus, on whom Chiro nhad bestowed it. The stratagem proved completely successful and from the consternation into which the Trojan's were thrown at the presence of the supposed Achilles, Patroclus was enabled to pursue them to the very walls of the city. Hector, the son of Priam, King of Troy, the most valiant of the Trojan chiefs and one of the noblest characters painted by heathen antiquity, led the Trojan forces and the brave Patroclus fell beneath the arm of Hector A fierce contest ensued for the dead body of Patroclus, of which possession was ultimately obtained by Ajax, "the bulwark of the Greeks." After Ajax had rescued the body of Patroclus he uttered this prayer:

"Lord of earth and air,
O King! O Father! hear my humble
prayer;
Dispel this cloud, the light of Heaven
restore;
Give me to see and Ajax asks no more.
If Greece must perish, we Thy will
obey,
"But let us perish in the face of day."

Jupiter heard the prayer and dispersed the clouds. Then Ajax sent a messenger to Achilles with the intelligence of Patroclus' death. Achilles was so distressed by the death of his friend that it was feared for a while that he would destroy himself. His groans reached the ears of his mother, Thetis, far down in the depths of ocean where she abode and she hastened to him to inquire the cause. She found him overwhelmed with grief at the death of his friend, that his only consolation was the hope of revenge.

"No wish
Have I to live or to concern myself
In men's affairs, save this, that Hector first
Pierced by my spear, shall yield his
life and pay
The debt of vengeance for Patroclus
slain."

As the arms of Achilles, having been worn by Patroclus had become the prize of Hector, Vulcan, at the request of Thetis, fabricated a suit of impenetrable armor for her son. Arrayed in
"This suit of sumptuous armor forged
by Vulcan' hand,
Beautiful such as no man ever
wore."

Then Achilles went forth to battle, inspired with a rage and thirst for vengeance that made him irresistible. The bravest warriors fled before him or fell by his lance. When they had escaped into the city, Hector without, determined to await the combat. Achilles approached "terrible as Mars and his armor flashing lightning as he moved." At that sight Hector's heart failed him and he fled. Achilles swiftly pursued and they thrice encircled the city. Achilles aimed his spear at a vulnerable spot and Hetcor fell, death wounded, and feebly said: "Spare my body." Achilles cutting off a lock of his victim's hair, he placed it in the dead hand of Patroclus, saying:

"And now, since I no more
Shall see my native land, the land I
love
Let the slain hero bear these locks
away."

Hill was as faithful to Jefferson Davis as was Achilles to Patroclus.

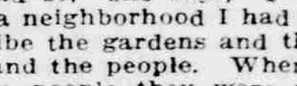
Mount Olive, N C.

MRS. ROGER A. PRYOR.

The truth of the old adage "where there's a will there's a way" once more is shown in Mrs. Roger A. Pryor's literary activities. Someone asked her the other day how it was that with her manifold duties she had the time to write. She replied that she wrote at odd times. "I get interested in the story," she said, "and then sketch out my plan and work on it as I may. When the work takes hold of me I often write far into the night, and sometimes I wake up at five o'clock in the morning and write. Otherwise I couldn't work at all."

Mrs. Pryor says that her latest book, a novel, which she has called The Colonel's Story (published last month by Macmillan) was in a way inspired by a letter from Thomas Nelson Page who wrote her that he and other Southern writers could only build up at second hand pictures of the old South, and that it was her duty to civilization to write of the Virginia she had known.

"And so," she says, "I thought I'd take a neighborhood I had known and describe the gardens and the countryside and the people. When I thought of the people they were real people and the story went right on of itsfelf. It is an old-fashioned love story," she added gravely, "and the love part is quite intense." Mrs. Pryor is eighty-one years old.



Every Thirtieth Woman a Teacher.

In an "open letter to one who is just beginning to teach" which William Estabrook Chancellor has appended to his book, "Class Teaching and Management," he makes the interesting statement that "of American women one in one hundred is now teaching school, and one in thirty has taught school. Of those who leave the work one in every two marries." Of district schools, he says that one-half the teachers are men. In "Class Teaching and Management" Mr. Chancellor advises men and women alike, and does not lay great stress on the question of sex; for it is his belief that in America nearly all teachers are essentially of the same temperament whether they are men or women.

An engagement ring on the finger is better than a dozen in the jeweler's safe.